

A PARTING GIFT TO MACDONALD.

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then, as if roused from a lethargic, si amber, turned to Mac-donald, and merely said, " Ah, Marshal!. so you are here !" Napoleon's countenance was so altered that the Marshal, struck with the change, said, as if it were involuntarily, " Is your Majesty indisposed?" — "Yes," answered Napoleon, " I have passed a very bad night." ¹

The Emperor continued seated for a moment, then rising, he took the treaty, read it without making any observations, signed it, and returned it to the Marshal, saying, "I am not now rich enough to reward these last services. — "Sire, interest, never guided my conduct." — "I know that, and I now see how I have been deceived respecting you. I also see the designs of those who prejudiced me against you." — " Sire, I have already told you, since 1809 I am devoted to you in life and death." — "I know it. But since I cannot reward you as I would wish, let a token of remembrance, inconsiderable though it be, assure you that I shall ever bear in mind the services *you* have rendered me." Then turning to Caulain-court Napoleon said, "Vicenza, ask for the sabre which was given me by Murad Bey in Egypt, and which I wore at the battle of Mount Thabor." Constant having brought the sabre, the Emperor took it from the hands of Caulaincourt and presented it to the Marshal. " Here, my faithful friend," said he, " is a reward which I believe will gratify you." Mac-donald on receiving the sabre said, "If ever I have a son, Sire, this will be his most precious inheritance. I will never part with it as long as I live." — " Give me your hand," said

¹ It has been alleged that on the night preceding Macdonald's return to Fontainebleau Napoleon made an attempt to poison himself. But as I have no certain knowledge respecting this affair I shall not, as some persons have done, hazard conjectures on the subject. The circumstance was decidedly contradicted by Napoleon in his conversation at St. Helena. The only person who can remove the doubts which exist on the subject is Constant, who, I have been informed, never left Napoleon the whole night. — *Bourrienne*.

Constant, in his *Memoirs*, confirms the report of Napoleon having taken poison at Fontainebleau. He states that on the night of the 11th of April he was suddenly called up on account of the Emperor's indisposition. On entering Napoleon's chamber he perceived in the fireplace a small leathern bag tied by a black ribbon, which he knew had contained opium, and which